

**Project Abstract.** Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) and St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) will implement the *63106 Promise to Success Initiative* in the City of St. Louis. The success of the Initiative will be rapidly advanced by the availability of strong, pre-existing relationships with collaborators, all of which have the capacity to fill gaps and extend the value and impact of the Initiative by: 1) *advancing equity*, 2) *delivering evidence-based services*, 3) *supporting resource sustainability*, and 4) *meeting Initiative goals*. Key project goals are: support families to stabilize and foster student preparation, persistence and performance; provide the academic enhancements most likely to foster student preparation, persistence and performance; and ensure all students have opportunities to succeed in school and in life. Strategies that will guide goal achievement include: 1) create a pipeline of solutions, from Pre-K through college and careers, that will strengthen families, remove school attendance barriers and prepare students for success, 2) address the implications of trauma for students and families and work to reduce trauma-inducing neighborhood crime, 3) bolster SLPS's evidence-based curricula with professional development resources designed to accelerate student achievement, and 4) invest in educational equity.

**Project objectives and activities.** Project objectives are: Family and Community Support-case management for all, connecting parents to adult education and job training, helping parents engage with their children's schools, coaching them to spend focused time with their children, stimulating economic mobility. Student Support- building the capacity of school counselors and social workers to address trauma, supporting equity in resources and treatment, connecting students to resiliency-building health care. Early Education- new early education classrooms in schools and the community, more professional development for early educators, consistent assessments of young children to identify and address developmental needs. K-12- preparing teachers to implement new curricula with fidelity, removing barriers to attendance, introducing

external resources to bolster persistence. College and Career Ready-increasing high school students' participation in in-school workforce development programs, building a more durable bridge between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades, connecting students to external programs offering support to and through college, assisting students in building networks with employers, strengthening relationships with area employers. Building and Sustaining Equity-creating a just, equal educational infrastructure; helping to fully implement SLPS' anti-racism curriculum, using data disaggregation to identify disparities and create responses, building protective factors in historically under-represented students of color.

**Number of participants to be served.** The project will benefit at least 1,400 students; currently low enrollment rates are projected to grow, which will increase that number over time.

**Number and location of proposed sites.** School sites are Jefferson, Carver, Columbia and Carr Lane MS, and Vashon HS. All schools are located in zip code 63106. Scaling of proven solutions in other SLPS schools, both within and outside 63106, is planned for Years 4-5 and beyond.

**Absolute Priority 1:** The Initiative is located in a non-rural, non-tribal community.

**Competitive Preference Priorities.** 1. Drive down adult and juvenile crime in partnership with existing programs and by incorporating other federally-funded resources. 2. Integrate community-based resources and SLPS' existing post-secondary programs, e.g., dual enrollment, dual credit, to enable all high school graduates to succeed in college and their chosen careers. 3. Incorporate evidence-based curricula and practices, e.g., in-school dual enrollment, dual credit programs, to enable student academic achievement and college and career success.